

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD
BUDGET WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 7, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: Jo Daviess County Chairperson Don Hill called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 7, 2021 in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.

ROLL CALL was answered as follows: Present – William Bingham, Don Hill, John Korth, John Lang, Robert O'Connor, John Schultz, and Don Zillig. Present: 7. Present electronically - Dianne Allendorf, Staci Duerr, Diane Gallagher, and Hendrica Regez. Present electronically: 4. Absent – Janet Checker, Robert Heuerman, Steve McIntyre, LaDon Trost, and Darcy Wild. Absent: 5. Vacant: 1.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Chairperson Hill.

AGENDA ITEM I - CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM II – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business brought before the board.

AGENDA ITEM III – NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM IV - FY2022 BUDGET WORKSHOP

County Administrator Scott Toot presented a summary review of the FY2022 budget process to date. He explained that he would not be making recommendations on any General Fund or Special Fund budgets at tonight's meeting due to uncertainty in employee compensation. He will discuss this further under Item E5.

The 2021 (payable 2022) tax levy options will be discussed once a comprehensive budget document has been prepared.

A motion to approve the Round 2 General Fund revenue estimate as presented was made by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang.

The motion carried by voice vote.

The special fund budgets have not been finalized and will be discussed and held over for final action at the future Budget Workshop meetings, which are scheduled for October 14, 2021 and October 19, 2021.

There were no new mandatory/necessary expense requests to review at this time. The complete list of mandatory/necessary expense requests and target increases will be presented at the next budget workshop meeting.

A motion to approve adding to the list of unfunded activities, a recurring County Highway Fund (002) expense of \$74,000.00 for the new hire of a Staff Engineer, was made by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang.

The motion carried by voice vote.

The remaining list of unfunded activities requests were reviewed and discussed. Final action will be taken at the future Budget Workshop meetings, which are scheduled for October 14, 2021 and October 19, 2021.

County Administrator Scott Toot read a memo that he had prepared for the board:

Tonight is the first of our three budget workshops; we will have the second budget workshop on October 14th and the final budget workshop on October 19th. At tonight's budget workshop, we should be moving the budgets forward to the draft budget document. However, we cannot because a County Board decision needs to be made regarding compensation. Wages were initially entered into the budget documents at a 2.7% increase as has been the standard in past years and we do have the budgets, revenue estimates and the other pieces to move forward.

I am requesting that the County Board provide my office with a decision regarding compensation at the County Board meeting on Tuesday night October 12th. The options really can be summed up briefly:

- *Do we proceed as we have done every year with the standard amount in the budget? This has been completed in salary and benefits.*
- *Or do we continue with the mandatory, necessary expense regarding making 35 hour and 37.5 hour employees 40 hour employees?*
- *Or is Carlson-Dettmann amended and updated as it was October 8, 2019? At that time steps 1 & 2 Exempt and Non Exempt were removed and 1% added to pay rates in steps 3, 4, 5, and 6, and added new steps 7 & 8 with a 3% differential.*

Compensation is the last piece of the budget puzzle that needs to be addressed in order to put the pieces together and move things forward into a budget document. We have two budget workshops remaining and I would like to get this final piece of the puzzle taken care of as quickly as possible. After the last budget workshop, we have from October 20 – October 29 to prepare the recommended budget for distribution to the County Board. On November 1st the draft budget document needs to be placed on the County website for viewing, a Truth in Taxation Notice (if applicable) must be published and a Truth in Taxation Hearing held. I realize I have asked for some rearrangement of the schedule and I have appreciated the extra time and meeting rearrangements granted by the County Board. "Time is of the essence" and I am asking for direction in order to complete this budget process.

A lengthy discussion was had by board members regarding compensation options. Although recent information would indicate the current pay schedule for employees still part of the original Carlson Dettmann scale is well below market, board members are concerned about a large increase without more analysis. They asked for cost estimates of multiple scenarios to be brought to the October 12, 2021 County Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM V – CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM VI - ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by John Korth and seconded by Robert O'Connor.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson Hill adjourned the budget workshop meeting at 6:35 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 14, 2021 at the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.